

The Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities  
Monthly Meeting  
February 21, 2018

**Welcome and Introductions:** Terri Seitz-Parrish, Chair; Julie Gaynor, Proxy for Councilwoman Cathy Bevens; Judy Volkman, Commissioner; Deborah Weems, Commissioner; Santa Wallace, Commissioner; Larry Hughes, Commissioner; Carolyn Johnson, Commissioner; Angela Manning, Commissioner; Paulette Smoot, Commissioner; Louis Pusinsky, Baltimore County Health Department; Steve Soppel, Commissioner; Mary Scott, Commissioner; rep for Karen Volz; Mary Manzoni, Commissioner; Brad Creswell, Commissioner; Michael Tan, Commissioner; Ellen Flatt, Commissioner; Douglas Smith, Commissioner; Hal Franklin, former County staff; Dave Weinberg, Commissioner; Kathleen Zirkin, Commissioner; Ashley Biggs, Commissioner; Mary Ellen Stevens, Guest; Ann Washington??, Guest; Jerry Bolinger, Commissioner; Ben Dubin, Vice-Chair;)

**Staff:** David Skinner

**Start:** 11:00 a.m.

**Speaker:** Speaker had to cancel

**Report of the Executive Committee**

- Continued to discuss Goals and suggestions for the 2018 Luncheon including:
  - Looking at different award luncheon venues this year since usual venue is up for auction.
  - Seating arrangements must allow ample room for wheel chairs and scooters.
  - Music should consist of recordings instead of live musician
  - The venue's bathroom accessibility needs to be fully functional.
  - Changes to the awardee nomination process. Instead of multitudes of nomination categories, this year there will only be two. Have a committee to review the form to see if
  - March [April] Exec Committee meeting shall consists of feedback about 2017 awards luncheon, and suggestions for future awards luncheon.
  - Streamlining - Plan to utilize online software such as Eventbrite.com to completely handle the registration and payment process.
  - Consider AV equipment: projector and laptop to run a slide show of pictures.
- Discussed CoD opportunity to review and make comments on pending ConPlan

**Report of the Full Body**

- **General Discussion:**
  - CoD funded fully with CDBG money but not for a full-time CoD staff person to replace Hal; as a result, David Skinner has been appointed as the new part-time CoD staff person.
  - New CoD phone number: 410.887.3317
  - New CoD email address: [plngcod@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:plngcod@baltimorecountymd.gov)
  - CoD website: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/disabilities/>
  - Review of Exec. Committee discussion about the 2018 Awards Luncheon planning. Volunteers wanting to help with event planning and logistics must contact Terri.
  - Hal kept extensive records about the luncheon planning of which David has access.
  - Katie reviewing awards luncheon photos for possible posting on CoD website and a possible planned AV presentation for next luncheon. Release form signatures need for future photos, especially for minors. Possible to incorporate photos release to electronic registration process

**Work Group Reports:**

- **Education:**
  - Mary Scott: For the past 10 years, Education workgroup has been trying to encourage BCPS to incorporate the Family Life Education & Health Education into the certificate (non-diploma) track. 4 years ago Joe Leak assisted in getting COMAR changed to say

that students on this tract must have access to this curriculum as long as there is a qualified teacher to administer the course.

- This past year 40 teachers were trained and students were finally given instruction but no principal accountability of a delivery method to ensure students receive the training on a regular basis.
  - This is the first time ever that 7 of the school members will be elected rather than appointed. At this date 2 district still have not had anyone file as a candidate. At last month's EW meeting Yara Shake who is affiliated with Dulaney High School stepped forward to become a school board candidate and is currently a member of the League of Women Voters. Candidate for district six attended a past EW meeting has been coming to give the inside scope about the School board election process. Is CoD allowed to endorse political candidates? Mary will look further into exactly how to pose the question to the administration.
  - Mary Scott: Would like CoD to be co-sponsor of a forum in each quadrant in the County to talk about formally incorporating the Family Life Education & Health Education in to the certificate track.
  - Ben: Advised that there was feedback that the school board candidate financial disclosure process was quite laborious and posed a barrier to potential candidates' applications.
  - Terri: next month Baltimore Neighborhoods Inc. will be the guest speaker
- **Housing:**
    - Terri: Advised that the HW reviewed the 2016-2019 Consolidated Plan.
    - David: Provided an overview of the 2016 Voluntary Conciliation Agreement (VCA) advising that the County is on track with its performance requirements. This being an election year, explained the concept of NIMBYism and the potential of would-be political appointees using the VCA as a controversial campaign issue to throw shade at the current County administration.
    - Guest: Shared her concern as a parent of a disabled son. There is a ruling that a [housing voucher holder] with a disability cannot live within a half mile of another [housing voucher holder] with a disability. Wonders about Seniors 55+ with fabulous communities who are have exemptions? What about people with disabilities clustering together in an environment with separate cafeteria, movie room, support staff...where do they fit in all of this???
    - Several Commissioners addressed Judy's concerns offering clarification for her misperceptions of these concepts.
      - Federal gov. provisions under the Medicaid Waiver are a bit confusing a the rules are grey at times. Case in point, a number of people with the waiver live at the TABCO building. Requires reporting to HUD but so far no responses received from HUD to adequately address the reporting requirement.
      - This is why advocacy is so important. Advocacy requires that each person in the community take responsibility to hold their elected officials, on all levels, responsible to addressing community concerns.

#### **Announcements:**

- 4/28/2018 Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, Collington Square Elementary School, 1409 N. Collington Ave
- 4/28/2018 MCCR 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, Reginald F. Lewis Museum, 830 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
- 5/3/2018 Housing Workgroup, The IMAGE Center, 300 E Joppa Rd #312, Towson, MD 21286
- 5/5/2018 Every Voice Counts Transportation Academy + Connectworking Event, Impact Hub Baltimore, 10 East North Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21202
- 5/9/2018 Education Work Group, Odyssey School, 3257 Bridle Ridge Lane 21153

**Adjournment:** 2:00 pm